



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE REGULAR
MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, October 19, 2015

10:00 AM

AUDIO FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-4961)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi,
Commissioner Maria Brenes, Commissioner Patricia Curry,
Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Wendy Garen,
Commissioner John Kim, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Vice Chair
Jacquelyn McCroskey, Vice Chair Wendy B. Smith and Chair
Sunny Kang

Absent: Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Sydney
Kamlager, Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin and
Commissioner Janet Teague

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order. (15-4620)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kang at 10:00 a.m.

2. Introductions of the October 19, 2015 meetings attendees. (15-4622)

Self-introductions were made.

3. Approval of the October 19, 2015 meeting agenda. (15-4623)

Chair Kang asked that the agenda be amended to discuss Agenda Item No. 7 after Agenda Item No. 4 to accommodate Fesia Davenport's schedule. On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Franzen (Commissioners Cooper, Kamlager, Kim, Konigar-Macklin and Teague being absent), this item was approved as amended by Chair Kang.

4. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of October 5, 2015. (15-4624)

On motion of Vice Chair Smith, seconded by Commissioner Franzen (Commissioners Cooper, Kamlager, Kim, Konigar-Macklin, Teague being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

5. Chair's report for October 19, 2015. (15-4626)

Chair Kang reported the following:

- **The Executive Committee was selected with consideration of including equal representation from each Supervisorial District; the Committee is comprised of the current Chair and Vice Chairs and includes Commissioners Kim, Curry and Kamlager. This Committee will operate as an ad hoc committee and will meet as needed with the goal of keeping close relationships with the Board offices and reporting back on the Commission's work, as well as hearing their concerns and important issues; and**
- **Volunteers are needed to plan the Commission's 2015 Holiday Celebration. Please email Tamara Hunter, MSW, Executive Director, with any interests and/or suggestions.**

6. Department of Children and Family Services Director's Report for October 19, 2015 by Philip Browning, Director. (15-4629)

Cynthia McCoy-Miller, Senior Deputy Director, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported the following on behalf of Philip Browning, Director, DCFS:

- **Regional Administrators, SEIU Leadership and Risk Management Staff collaborated on the first Critical Incident Child Fatality Process Workgroup the last week of September 2015. The purpose of the workgroup is to improve information gathering, while ensuring respect and sensitivity towards families throughout their crises situation, and improve service delivery while minimizing the impact of the investigation on the families as well as the staff.**
- **Approximately 500 San Fernando Valley Regional Office Staff moved to the new Zev Yaroslavsky Family Support Center in the East Valley.**

This family support system will house seven County Departments consisting of DCFS, Public Social Services, Child Support Services, Probation, Mental Health, Health Services, and Public Health for more efficient collaborations between departments. The facility contains 60 interview booths and 30 conference rooms, it is estimated that 1,000 clients will visit daily.

- Over the past two years, more than one thousand Social Workers have been hired; caseloads have decreased on average to 24 for CSWs. The goal is to reduce caseloads to 18 for ER and 24 for continuing services; an additional 500 new hires are expected. At the request of the Commission, Ms. McCoy Miller will report back on the number of case workers that are not case carrying;**
- For the month of August 2015, over 35,000 children received child welfare services, this number decreased in comparison to 35,513 in July 2015. Also, there were 18,000 children ages 0 – 21 in foster care, 52% of which were placed with family members; placements increased in comparison to July 2015 with 17,793; and**
- There were 615 exits for August 2015 of which 81.3% went to permanent residency such as 62.9% toward reunification, 14.8% were adopted and 3.6% attained guardianship.**

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Cynthia McCoy-Miller responded as follows:

- Children receiving welfare services while not in foster care, primarily receive family maintenance, which can include family preservation;**
- Wendy Luke was appointed Division Chief over Youth Development Services; an updated Organizational Chart will be forwarded to Commissioners once it becomes available; and**
- Protocol is being finalized for emergency child care services and/or preventing placement disruption due to lack of child care.**

III. UPDATE

- 7. Updates from the Office of Child Protection.**

Fesia Davenport, Interim Director, Office of Child Protection (15-4897)

Chair Kang introduced Fesia Davenport, Interim Director, Office of Child Protection. Ms. Davenport shared a video of a young girl's point of view

on improving collaboration between her parents. Ms. Davenport also provided an update on four areas relating to the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection;

Joint Nurse Visits with Social Workers Initiative:

- Initiative launched in July in an effort to improve this policy the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Medical HUB Clinics and Department of Mental Health (DMH) have hired public health nurses and psychiatric social workers. They will continue to hire staff;
- OCP is scheduled to report back to the Board of Supervisors in November 2015; the report will include data on the volume of recipients who utilized the services;
- There is value to this initiative in more areas than just safety, will focus on service linkage and more prevention;
- Two scenarios were shared on the current and future services that the joint nurse visit recommendation provides; the first scenario is that of a social worker who requested a nurse join her for a second visit at which time, based on the observation, the nurse made an immediate referral to the Medical Hub. The second scenario is a neglect call investigation where the social worker and the nurse jointly investigate and discover that the mother has young children ages 1 to 3 and is also pregnant; a plan for the family is in progress. These stories highlight the potential of the program; and
- The November Report will shape Phase 2 of the Joint Nurse Visit Initiative.

Philanthropy:

- OCP is in the process of finalizing a job description for the consultant who will serve as the Director of the new philanthropy liaison office under the OCP called the Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships;
- This unit will be comprised of three staff, including the Director, who will work with both the County and philanthropic entities on understanding how each operate the philanthropy process; and
- A shared agenda will be created in an effort to develop a true partnership between public and private entities.

Psychotropic Medication:

- A workgroup to address the issue was convened and a report is being prepared;
- The Community Child Welfare Coalition convened a community meeting and provided information on racial disproportionality among African-American children in the foster care system; DCFS was able to obtain statewide Data on the use and costs of psychotropic medication; the plan is to automate the psychotropic medication process and the OCP is working collaboratively with L.A. Care and Health Net to provide education regarding the foster care system, the youth and jumping to medical model rather than questioning caregivers about alternate methods and EPMA system to medical providers such as psychiatrists; and
- The convening will take place in December and then on a regular basis;
- Agreements regarding racial disproportionality among African-American children in the foster care system who are prescribed psychotropic medication in the County is not accepted by all; arguments indicate that the data is the access to psychotropic medications and not the use; in an effort to remedy the issue a consultant will be utilized to provide data that will include disproportionality in the psychotropic medication population; and

Resource Parent Recruitment and University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Study:

- The study has been finalized and a meeting among philanthropists, DCFS, Association of Community Human Services Agencies and Children's Commission was conducted; a second meeting has not been scheduled; and
- Ms. Davenport and Commissioner Curry provided a matrix of the proposed recommendations and strategies. OCP may take on the role of managing the implementation of all or a few of the recommendations.

Chair Kang expressed concern regarding systemic racism and how to deal with it.

Commissioner Garen expressed interest in being involved with the new consultant of philanthropy and would like to include the lack of child care as an issue to be addressed.

Commissioner Curry indicated that UCLA was not able to do the cost study because information was not available.

Commissioner Kim expressed concern regarding psychotropic medication and requested a report with data. Chair Kang added the importance of including a baseline measure.

Commissioner Berger added that strict protocols regarding psychotropic medications have been in place; a review process may be due.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Fesia Davenport responded as follows:

- The referral for home visitation for the family in the second scenario is unknown; however, a follow up is in progress and was a great tool to incorporate in the trainings;
- The nurse's assessment is attached to the social workers report. Nurses are monitored by their head nurse; however, follow-up on referrals made to the Department of Health Services are conducted by medical case workers; the idea is that each service provider conduct their own follow-up;
- The initial report in January indicated a strict safety construction; however, in time other measures were added to improve the program;
- Data on the referral made to the family in the second scenario will be provided and services offered to the parents will be reviewed;
- In an effort to improve the program, case reviews will be conducted to highlight the strengths and address the weaknesses;
- The timeframe for clinicians has not been determined; a report is due in November 2015;
- Plans to provide training on systemic racism are yet to be discussed; and
- Will provide information regarding the roles that Commissioners can play to improve the development of child protection.

IV. DISCUSSIONS/APPROVALS

8. Discussion and approval of the 2016 Commission for Children and Families regular meeting schedule. (15-3969)

Chair Kang introduced this item and indicated that the Commission usually meets on the first and third Mondays of the month, however, due to holidays, some dates have been cancelled and/or moved. There will only be one meeting scheduled in the months of January, February, July, and September. The January 4th meeting is moved to January 11th and the February 15th meeting is moved to February 22nd. There will be no meetings on January 18, July 4 and September 5, 2016.

On motion of Commissioner Berger, seconded by Vice Chair Smith, (Commissioners Cooper, Kamlager, Konigar-Macklin, and Teague being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

9. Discussion of Commission Representation on various government bodies, committees and working groups:
- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) System Leadership Team (SLT) - Commissioner Liz Seipel
 - First 5 LA - Commissioner Patricia Curry
 - Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development - Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey (15-4898)

Tamara Hunter, MSW, Executive Director, introduced this item and provided an overview of the Commission for Children and Families Matrix. Ms. Hunter indicated that according to the bylaws, appointment of commissioners to various government bodies is at the discretion of the Chair and reminded commissioners that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Strategic Planning Groups are in the process of being formed; contact her if you interested in becoming a part of this group.

Ms. Hunter reported that the Children's Court Trust Fund Oversight Committee (CCTFOC) currently does not have a representative from the

Commission since the departure of Commissioner Sorkin. CCTFOC meets at most twice a year to discuss how collected parking fees at the court will be utilized. Commissioner Curry added that CCTFOC does not require a lot of time.

Ms. Hunter further reported that for the next few meetings, Commissioners will be presenting on the various government bodies they are involved in. Commissioners are asked to provide a brief overview of the group; discuss how long they have represented the Commission on the body; provide updates on recent activities; discuss how the work in the bodies intersects with the work of the Commission; and to share opportunities for other commissioners to take part of the group. Ms. Hunter added that she hopes these presentations and updates will bring everyone up to speed so that the Commission can engage in meaningful discussions and action planning.

Commissioner Kim stated there will be priorities that need to be met in the strategic planning process and in order for the priorities to be met, there will need to be some cleaning up to do such as whether or not having 19 placements for commissioners is really the most useful way to spend their time. Ms. Hunter stated that they hope to increase commissioner engagement. Chair Kang noted that the presentations and updates will help them determine if some groups can be consolidated or eliminated.

Commissioner Seipel introduced the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) System Leadership Team (SLT) and reported the following:

- SLT was established in January 2005 when MHSA, or Proposition 63, was passed;
- The group is made up of 60 stakeholders, consisting of both self-nominations and organizational-nominations. The Commission for Children and Families holds one seat out of the 60;
- SLT is a group of advisors for the Department of Mental Health (DMH) regarding policies, budgets, programs, and management issue that effect how MHSA funds are utilized in Los Angeles County;
- Commissioner Seipel began as an Alternate and stepped in after the departure of Commissioner Sorkin. Commissioner Seipel is requesting volunteers to serve as Alternate;

- **SLT meets monthly on the third Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the auditorium of Saint Anne's located at 155 North Occidental Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90026;**
- **October's meeting will start at 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to celebrate Dr. Southard's, Director of Department of Mental Health, contribution to DMH services and the community;**
- **The agenda lists the reason for meeting and generally focuses on updates and current activities in DMH and MHSA programs and services along with any other mental health issues that need to be addressed;**
- **The purpose of SLT is to support the transformation of the overall public mental health system in Los Angeles County and monitor the progress of MHSA implementation, overseeing the progress of many programs and services that are funded by MHSA. This year's MHSA budget is estimated at \$388.4 million with a portion dedicated for innovation;**
- **MHSA was intended to supplement mental health services that were already categorically funded and not supposed to be supplanted with MHSA funds. MHSA is also about prevention, early intervention, innovation, and client wellness services around the core services of mental health;**
- **Dr. Southard reported to SLT regarding the Board of Supervisors' idea of combining Mental Health, Public Health, and Health Services into one agency, for the purpose of integrating;**
- **Dr. Christina Ghaly, Director of Healthcare Integration, Chief Executive Office, put together the plan of combining the health service agencies in which SLT had input in. After the plan was drafted and out for public comment, Dr. Mitch Katz, Director of Health Services, reviewed the plan with SLT. SLT created an Ad Hoc committee for the purpose of reviewing the plan and also reviewing an alternative to consolidation which was written by a coalition of agencies who were instructed to write a public comment on the health agency document. The document was presented to the Board of Supervisors and was passed in July;**
- **Dr. Southard reported to SLT that a Strategic Plan was being developed and to be due in 45 days. The Strategic Plan would set the goals of one health agency and would also develop the organizational frame work for another health agency; and**

- **Dr. Southard further reported to SLT that an advisory/guidance group needs to be established to help monitor planning, give input to the structural development, and ensure the outcome is what the community and public desires. Commissioner Seipel recommended to Dr. Southard that the Commission for Children and Families have a place on this guidance group.**

Commissioner Seipel stressed the importance of this advisory group and recommended that the Commission request a seat on this group since very few members represent children services.

Commissioner Garen suggested the Commission draft a Board letter to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. Laura Quinonez, County Counsel, advised the Commission that approval of the Board letter must be agendaized on a future meeting and cannot be voted upon at this meeting. The Commission agreed to add an item on the next agenda for discussion and approval.

First 5 LA and Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development were not discussed.

Attachments: [COMMISSION REPRESENTATION MATRIX](#)
[CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK](#)
[ROUNDTABLE PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM](#)
[LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

- 10.** Announcements for the meeting of October 19, 2015. (15-4631)

There were no announcements presented.

- 11.** Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-4633)
- 11A.** Discussion and approval to submit a Board letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting representation of children and youth on the Los Angeles County Health Integration Advisory Board. (15-5103)

- 12.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-4634)

No members of the public addressed the Commission on this item.

- 13.** Adjournment for the meeting of October 19, 2015. (15-4632)

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.